



**St. Katharine Drexel Council of Catholic Women**  
**April 2026**

*The St. Katharine Drexel Council of Catholic Women is an affiliate of the Diocese of Venice Council of Catholic Women (VDCCW) and the National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW). The NCCW is a member of the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations (WUCWO) and is an affiliate of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).*



**St. Katharine Drexel  
 Council of Catholic Women  
 General Membership Meeting**

**General Membership Meeting**

**Tuesday, April 7, 2026**

*Tuesday due to Easter*

Place: Parish Hall

Mass: 9:00 am

Meeting: 10:00 am – 12 pm

Lunch: 12pm – 1 pm

*Potluck, Bring a Dish!*

Speaker: Renee Marazon

Spiritual Charisms and the Jeremiah Team



Bunco: Thursday, April 16, 2026

Parish Hall - 11 am – 2 pm

*Meets every third Thursday of the month.*

SKD CCW Board Meeting:

Thursday, April 30, 2026 – 10 am – 12 pm

Faith Formation Building West



*L-R - Eileen Hartley, Ellen Stock,  
 Mary Ann Bedell, Roxana Nicholson*

**Venice Diocese Convention News**

**Mary Ann Bedell & Ellen Stock**

Mary Ann Bedell, President, and Ellen Stock, President-Elect, recently attended the two-day VDCCW Convention in Venice, Florida. They were joined by Eileen Hartley and Roxana Nicholson in the general meeting. Ellen reports that the event was full of inspiring talks on faith, trust, and the support of our CCW community. Speakers included Dr. Jack Giddens, Michele D. Della Costa, Karen Schwarz, and Brenda Dolan. Katie Morris, President of VDCCW, organized this informative event. She spoke about the sisterhood of CCW and all the wonderful support she has

received during difficult life events. It was good to have junior CCW members and Golden Rose recipients present for the festivities. Attendees enjoyed wonderful food, fellowship, raffles, and a beautiful Mass with Bishop Frank Dewane. It was a joyful celebration of CCW sisterhood, including our junior members and Golden Rose recipients.



### Judy Curtis, Ann Young

Our April General Membership Meeting will be a **Potluck**. April will be our **last potluck of the season**.

The May General Membership Meeting will be catered by CCW – we will have luscious pizza and salad.

Everyone did a great job each month bringing in wonderful, delicious food for our luncheons. Thank you to everyone for doing a great job!



### Our Easter Blessing

May the joy of the Risen Christ fill your hearts, and may the miracle of Easter renew your faith and remind you of His grace.

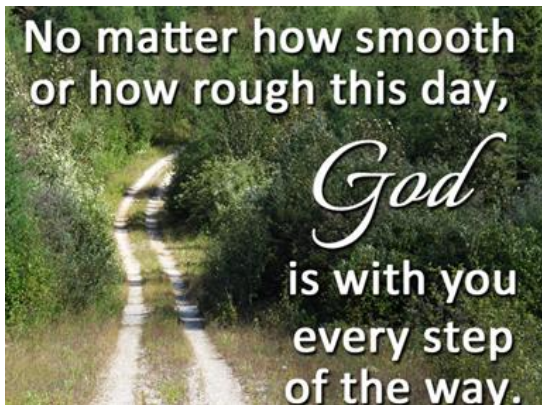
May you walk in His light, share kindness with others, and trust in His love.

May His light shine in your lives and guide you on your journey of faith.

May you experience the power of His Resurrection and the hope of eternal life.

And may the blessing of Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, descend upon you and remain with you always.

Alleluia! Amen!



Membership

### Roxana Nicolson

*Grow our CCW Sisterhood!*

Roxana reminds all of us at the SKD CCW to continue inviting women to join our ministry. Our Council offers a wide variety of activities, events, fundraisers, prayerful retreats, and trips that enrich and strengthen our faith. By extending a personal invitation, we can welcome more women of the parish and continue to grow our sisterhood in Christ.



### Understanding Mental Health: Supporting with Compassion

When we encounter someone struggling with mental illness, it's natural to want to help. Society often urges us to diagnose, fix, or solve the problem—but that is not our role. Our role is simpler: we listen without judgment and offer encouragement. If appropriate, we may share resources for professional care. If we minimize the experience of the person, or offer quick fixes, we can unintentionally push away those we sincerely want to help. Instead of trying to provide solutions, accompany the person -- stand with them. If we reach out with compassion and understanding, even in small ways, we can help ease their journey. As a parish, we are whole only when all members are included. We strengthen the Body of Christ each time we reach out with patience and empathy. As a welcoming community of faith, we recognize that it is Christ who heals, all power comes from Him. Small steps can yield very large returns. *God of mercy, guide our words and actions so that we may be a source of hope, strength, and encouragement to those who struggle. Amen.*

[Anxiety & Depression Association of America \(ADAA\) - Understanding Anxiety & Depression](#)



SKD CCW General Membership Meeting:  
Thursday, May 7, 2026

**Faith Formation West** – 10 am – 1 pm

Catered Lunch: Pizza & Salad

*Last Meeting of the Season*

SKD CCW Board Meeting:

Thursday, May 28, 2026

Faith Formation Building West

Meets 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month

Respect Life: Maria Maddalena,  
239-540-7096

Prayer, Planned

Parenthood, Ft.

Myers, 12 Noon

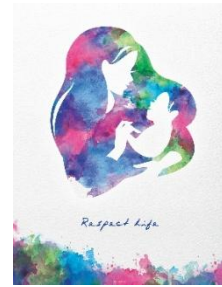
*Every Thursday starting at Noon*

Rosary for Life – SKD Chapel

Friday, April 13, 2026 12 pm – 1 pm

Diaper Drive – Weekend of April 18-19

(size 4, 5 + 6) + wipes + shampoo



## 250 Years: Women of Faith and Courage



*St. Frances Xavier Cabrini (1850–1917), Patroness of Immigrants*

Frances Xavier Cabrini was born in 1850 in the small farming town of Sant’Angelo Lodigiano in Lombardy, Italy. The youngest of 13 children, she grew up in a humble, rural home. Mother Cabrini arrived in the United States in 1889, a difficult time for Italian immigrants. Serving immigrants and the poor, she founded the *Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus* and established more than 60 schools, hospitals, and orphanages in New York City, Chicago, New Orleans, Denver, Seattle, Los Angeles, and Philadelphia, as well as schools and missions in Italy, France, Spain, England, Nicaragua, Argentina, and Brazil. Despite frail health, she traveled extensively, seeking partnerships with bishops and receiving encouragement from Pope Leo XIII. Her work did far more than help; it changed lives. Through fearless leadership and steadfast faith, she created institutions that anchored immigrant families in education, healthcare, and spiritual belonging for generations. She was canonized on July 7, 1946, by Pope Pius XII, becoming the first United States citizen to be declared a saint. Her unwavering faith and extraordinary courage stand as a timeless example of a woman’s strength in God.



## 2026 Lenten Retreat – Our Lady of Perpetual Help Center, Venice, Florida

Ellen Stock reports that the retreat was wonderful. Father Greg Cleveland gave insightful talks about “quieting the noise of life to hear God’s voice during Lent.” Emphasize was the importance of taking time to listen to God-- despite the demands

of everyday living. Father stressed that set times and places to pray and trusting in the Divine Providence of God with the help of the saints was important. We had time for prayer and reflection to walk around the beautiful grounds in the countryside. The group had the opportunity for Confession, Rosary, Adoration, Mass, and Mary’s Way of the Cross. The food was excellent and so was the sisterhood.



Nominating Commission

### Nominating Commission – Ellen Stock

President	Mary Ann Bedell
President-Elect	Ellen Stock
Treasurer	Eileen Hartley
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	<b>OPEN</b>
Parliamentarian	Madeleine DeBois
Leadership	Donna Scherer, Sue McClure
Membership	Roxana Nicholson, <b>OPEN CO</b>
Spirituality	Rose Talbot-Babey
Service	Peggy Thomas, Kat Donahue
Nominating	Ellen Stock
Hospitality	Judy Curtis, Ann Young
e-Communications	Kathy Giardina

Ellen Stock and the Nominating Commission have given us the listing of women up for nomination. As you can see, some positions are open, so this list may change. **April is Voting month – so don't forget to vote** in the nomination process at the *April General Meeting, Tuesday, 4/7/26.*



Statue of Ponce de Leon in St. Augustine, FL

### La Pascua Florida – Festival of Flowers – That's Us!!!!

On April 2, 1513 (513 years ago), Spanish explorer Juan Ponce de León arrived on the shores of what is now Florida during the Easter season. He named it *La Florida* in recognition of the verdant landscape and because it was the Easter season, which the Spaniards called *Pascua Florida* (Festival of Flowers). We now simply say "Florida." For us, this name carries a deeper meaning. Easter – *Pascua* - is the celebration of Christ's Resurrection, a time of new life, hope, and renewal. Think about it, we are resilient, we are the Easter state!!!

